

## **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SWITCHING VARIABLY SIZED INFORMATION GROUPS**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

5 A system and method are provided for locking a link to transfer variable length information packets across a packet/cell switch. The invention uses a least recently used arbitration process to select a switch input for each switch output. In the event that multiple switch outputs nominate a common switch input, a least recently used 10 arbitration process selects between nominating switch outputs. Then, the arbitration process is repeated for switch outputs that remain unlinked. Once a switch output and switch input have been linked, the information packet is completely transferred across the switch before those outputs and inputs again become eligible for arbitration.